

second ramp surface cooperating with the first ramp surface to secure the tip portion to the carrier plate.

28. (New) The power oscillating hand tool of Claim 27, wherein the first and second ramp surfaces angle upward in a rearward direction.

29. (New) The power oscillating hand tool of Claim 27, wherein the tool is a sander.

REMARKS

Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action, and to render all the claims at issue patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Claims 1-9 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 10-29 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the application as originally filed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully submits that outstanding

Section 112 rejections are moot in view of the new claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicates that Claims 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has added new independent Claim 10 which substantially includes the limitations of original Claim 9. Applicant has not consider it necessary to include all of the limitations of original Claim 1 and intervening Claim 6. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 10 and Claims 11-18 dependent therefrom are in a condition for allowance.

Applicant has added new Claim 19. New Claim 19 recites that the first holes of the carrier plate extend between upper and lower surfaces of the carrier plate and further that the projections of the platen extend through an associated hole and abut the upper surface. These limitations are not taught nor suggested by the art of record. Furthermore, the invention defined by new Claim 19 would not have obvious in view of the collective art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 19 and Claims 20-26 dependent therefrom are in a condition for allowance.

Applicant has added new independent Claim 27. New Claim 27 recites first and second ramp surfaces for securing a tip portion of the carrier plate to the platen. These limitations are not taught nor suggested by the art of record. Furthermore, the invention

defined by Claim 27 would not have been obvious in view of the collective art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 27 and Claims 28 and 29 dependent therefrom are in a condition for allowance.

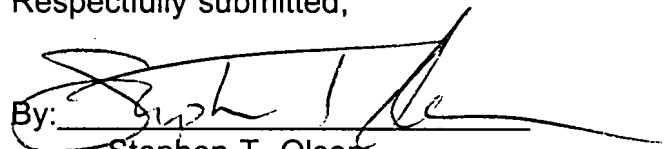
CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are currently presented in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience.

Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the art cited but not relied upon by the Examiner. Applicant has concluded that these references do not affect the patentability of the claims as currently presented.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the present amendment, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Stephen T. Olson
Reg. No. 36,626

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
(248) 641-1600

Dated: February 25, 2000
STO/lkj
Docket No: 0275S-500573